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Letter dated 6 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the Security Council's consideration of the question of the selection of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization.

Upon instructions from my Government, I have great pleasure in nominating, for the consideration of the Council, a distinguished career diplomat of my country and former international civil servant, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala.

Mr. Dhanapala, currently Senior Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka, has had an impressive record of 27 years in Sri Lanka's diplomatic service and 10 years of service at senior levels in the United Nations, initially as Director of the Institute for Disarmament Research from 1987 to 1992 and later as Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs from 1998 to 2003. He is therefore well known to the United Nations membership at large.

I attach a biographical note on Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala (see annex).

It is the hope of the Government of Sri Lanka that the Council will give favourable consideration to the candidature of Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala with a view to recommending to the General Assembly his appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations with effect from 1 January 2007.

In view of the role of the General Assembly set out in Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, I am also informing the President of the General Assembly of Mr. Dhanapala's nomination as a candidate for the position of Secretary-General.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Prasad Kariyawasam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Biographical note
Jayantha Dhanapala

Jayantha Dhanapala is currently a Senior Adviser to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka. Mr. Dhanapala was invited to manage the peace process by the Government of Sri Lanka in mid-2004 after a distinguished career as a national and international diplomat, peacebuilder, disarmament expert and articulate champion of non-discriminatory global norms, i.e. rule of law, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and general concerns of developing countries in the collective interest of the international community. He functioned as Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process till the end of November 2005, when he relinquished duties to devote more time to bid for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Further to his duties in Sri Lanka, Mr. Dhanapala continues to be active internationally through his membership of several international groups, such as the International Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the International Advisory Group of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations University Council, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Advisory Council of the Stanford Institute for International Studies, the International Board of the Bonn International Center for Conversion, the International Advisory Board of the Center for Non-proliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, and as Honorary President of the International Peace Bureau.

Mr. Dhanapala has had a distinguished career spanning the private sector, government, the United Nations and academia from 1962 to 2004, interacting with different levels of society, including Heads of State and Government and a wide diversity of nationalities. Following a stint in the private sector in Sri Lanka, he ranked first in seeking entry into the Sri Lankan Foreign Service in 1965 and served thereafter in diplomatic postings in London, Beijing, Washington, D.C., New Delhi and Geneva, culminating in Ambassadorial appointments in Geneva (1984-1987), accredited to the United Nations and in Washington, D.C. (1985-1987). During his diplomatic career, he engaged proactively and innovatively in political, disarmament, economic, trade, human rights and cultural matters in both bilateral and multilateral contexts. He represented Sri Lanka and chaired groups at Non-aligned Movement and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation conferences, Commonwealth meetings, Conference on Disarmament and disarmament treaty-related meetings, and meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Commission on Human Rights and other human rights bodies, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, etc. Mr. Dhanapala was widely acclaimed for his Presidency of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a landmark event in disarmament history, because of his crafting of a package of decisions, which was

adopted without a vote, balancing the twin objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, as well as the concerns of the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States. He was later invited by the Government of Australia to serve with a group of 17 eminent international personalities on the Canberra Commission, which published an influential report on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in 1996.

Schooled and experienced in corporate management, Mr. Dhanapala integrated those skills and experiences into successful governmental, diplomatic, mission and international organization administration. Mr. Dhanapala has an in-depth knowledge of the United Nations gained from 10 years of experience in working in a senior management capacity in the United Nations. As an efficient and effective senior manager, he gained valuable experience in human resources and budgetary management, working smoothly with staff representatives and delegations of Member States. First, he served as Director (D-2) of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva (1987-1992), directing policy-oriented research in an autonomous think tank, broadening the financial base through fund-raising with a wider group of countries and foundations. He acted to expand the area of research to include non-military threats to security, handbooks to assist delegations to the Conference on Disarmament, providing opportunities for training of researchers from developing countries, networking of research institutes in regions, and increasing the volume and impact of UNIDIR publications.

Later, Mr. Dhanapala was hand-picked by Kofi Annan to take on the challenging job of Under-Secretary-General in re-establishing the Department of Disarmament after the United Nations reforms of 1997 (1998-2003). During his tenure, he piloted the United Nations role in arresting the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel landmines, conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, while reinforcing existing norms and norm-building in other areas. He also broke new ground, both in-house in taking managerial initiatives in gender mainstreaming and in work-life issues, and in the disarmament field by innovating the exchange of weapons for development programmes in Albania and in other areas as well as in the cross-sectoral linking of disarmament with development, the environment and peace education programmes.

Mr. Dhanapala has had a solid education in the humanities obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka and a Master of Arts (International Studies) degree from the American University (Washington, D.C.). He studied Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. He has also had work experience in academia as Diplomat-in-Residence in 1997 with the Centre for Non-proliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies in the United States of America, researching and writing on a non-discriminatory global approach to disarmament. He has published four books and several articles in international journals and has lectured in many countries. He was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant to research and write the book *Multilateral Diplomacy and the NPT: An Insider's Account*, published by UNIDIR in Geneva in 2005. His contributions to the international community are widely recognized through the receipt of many awards, including from Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Ploughshares Fund, and the School of International Service of American University (Washington, D.C.) for his work in diplomacy and disarmament, and was the Global Security Institute's first recipient of the Alan

Cranston Peace Award in 2002. Mr. Dhanapala has also received several honorary degrees, including Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (2000); Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa) from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (2001); Doctor of Science in the Social Sciences from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom (2003); and Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka (2003).

As an effective and eloquent communicator to a wide variety of audiences, Mr. Dhanapala has been invited to deliver several keynote lectures, including the Olof Palme Memorial lecture at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in 2004 and the Dorothy Hodgkin Memorial Lecture to the Pugwash Conference in 2003, and has published op-ed articles in international newspapers, such as the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Financial Times* (United Kingdom).

Born on 30 December 1938, Mr. Dhanapala is married, with two children (a daughter, who is an economist, and a son, who has worked as a professional in UNHCR from 1992-1994 and from 1995 to date). He speaks fluent Sinhala, his mother tongue, and English, and is proficient in both French and Chinese.